

PUNCHED CONTROL MARKINGS ON SCHERMACK TYPE III COIL STAMPS.

In 1906 the government began issuing imperforate stamps in sheets of 400 to meet the demand of the manufacturers of vending and affixing machines. It is with the latter group that our attention is focused.

These companies punched and cut the imperforate sheets into coils so that they might be used in the machines which they manufactured.

The Schermack company, which later became, first, the Mail-O-Meter company, and, later the Mail-O-Meter company, was one such company. Mr. J. J. Schermack invented, developed and produced an electrically operated stamp affixing and envelope sealing machine, and by 1909 was perforating coils with two slots (or rectangular perforations) and supplying them in rolls of 3,000 at 50 cents over face value to owners of their affixing machines. However, the Schermack company sold its interest in the business and the new company changed the name. The new company after experimenting with some large round holes in an attempt to get the government to produce a special coil for them dropped the idea when the Bureau declined to produce the special coil stamps. Meanwhile the company continued to use the two slot perforation and continued to do so for some 20 years. The standard stamp cataloguers labelled this type of perforation Schermack type III although after July 1909 the Mail-O-Meter company did the perforating.

What interests us as Perfin collectors is the fact that these coil stamps were also found with additional holes punched through the stamp itself. These additional perforations, while not arranged as initials, numerals, or designs, as we use the terms, in the Perfin Club catalogue of perforated stamps, or the recently compiled illustrated work, ARE perfins in a sense and consequently have a place in perfin collections.

The "gaget" which made these perforations or control marks on the coil stamps was an extra piece of equipment added to the affixing machine. When the coil stamps were inserted into the affixing device there were no control markings on them. When the knife blade severed the stamps being affixed to the cover, the same operation punched the control holes on the adjacent stamp.

Since the stamps were locked into the affixing machine and registers counted every stamp applied, there actually was no need for the control marking as a precaution against pilfering. But perforated identifications were very popular at that time, so the manufacturer met the demand.

The patent application for this perforating gaget was filed October 9, 1909, by Mr. Bennett D. Straight and was granted under #1127543 on February 9, 1915. Mr. Straight assigned the patent to the Mail-O-Meter company.

The Mail-O-Meter company experimented with at least two types of control markings, and then decided on a third type consisting of three horizontal lines of three holes each, the basic pattern being a nine hole solid square. By eliminating one or more holes from the basic design a large number of patterns could be used.

Schermack #2

One of the experimental types was an upright diamond. A stamp with this perforation is hard to come by.

The second experimental type was a twelve hole open square having four holes on each side.

(See illustrations, not to scale, below.)

The Mail-O-Meter company sold their affixing machines and the coil stamps to concerns who had a large subscription or advertising volume of mail.

So far as known only one and two cent stamps were used. Scotts types A-138, A-139 and A-140 were the only imperforates used.

The number assigned to each control design is determined by the position of the eliminated hole or holes. A pattern with all nine or twelve holes present is listed as # "0". All determinations to be made with the stamp face up and head up, since this was the way the stamps were fed into the affixing machine before the perforating takes place.

E X A M P L E S

. . . 1 2 3
. . . 4 5 6
. . . 7 8 9

.
.
.

Read #0

#48

#159

. . . . A B C D
. . . . E F
. . . . G H
. . . . I J K L

. . . .
. . . .
. . . .

. . . .
. 7 . .
. . . .

Read # 0

D

BK



On the accompanying list of patterns and identifications, the following symbols are used:

** Following pattern number, indicates item NOT confirmed in this survey and was taken from a former listing.

** Before identification: same.

*** Listed from old notes, origin of which are unknown. May or may not exist.

Unmarked items are supported by stamps or covers.

If anyone can confirm any of the symbolized items, or has other unlisted information, please contact the catalogue chairman.

Schermack #3

Pattern
None

Used by
(No name) Wall Street, New York, NY.

1	**	Spencer Trask & Co., New York, NY.
3		Smith Gray & Co., New York & Brooklyn NY.
4		
5		
7		
9		Fidelity-Phoenix Ins. Co., Chicago, Ill.
13	**	Cosmopolitan Magazine, New York, NY. Motor Magazine, New York, NY.
14		Success Magazine, New York, NY.
17		
19		
25	**	David Williams Publishing Co., New York, NY.
28	**	Taxpayers Protective League, Detroit, Mich.
36	**	C. A. Strelinger Co., Detroit, Mich.
37		Babson Brothers, Chicago, Ill.
39	***	
45	**	Hammacher Schlemmer Co., New York, NY.
46		
47	**	Ohio Electric Co., Chicago, Ill
48		Kabo Corset Co., Chicago, Ill.
49		
56		Chalmers Motor Co., Detroit, Mich.
57	**	** E. F. Houghton & Co., New York, NY.
58		
68		
69	**	National Fire Ins. Co., Chicago, Ill Colonial Fire Underwriters, Chicago, Ill.
79		Third National Bank, St Louis, Mo.

Schermack #4

124		A. Saks, New York, NY.
127		
134	**	Smith & Gray, NewYork, NY.
136		
137		Cosmopolitan Magazine, NewYork, NY.
139		
149	**	Detroit & Cleveland Navigation Co., Detroit.
179		(No name) Station E, NewYork, NY.
236		Quaker Oats Co., Chicago, Ill.
237		
246		
258		
349		
367		
378		Babson Brothers, Chicago, Ill.
379		
468	**	Meyer Roth & Co., Chicago, Ill.
478	**	Success Magazine, New York NY.
579		
678	**	
689		Hill Publishing Co., NewYork, NY. Engineering & Mining Journal, NewYork NY American Machine-Power Co., NewYork, NY.
1239	**	
1245		Review of Reviews, NewYork, NY Good Humor-Good Health, NewYork, NY. Box 43, Station D, NewYork, NY McClures Magazine, New York, NY.
1249		
1279		
1289		

Schermack #5

1367 ***

1378

1379

1469

1679

2356 Osborne Co., NewYork, NY.

2458 **

2468

3467

4578 ** DeLaval Separator Co., ? ? ?

4589 **

4678 DeLaval Separator Co., New York, NY.

4679

5679 **

5689 John Wanamaker, New York, NY.

12358 ***

12456 ** W. M. Crane Co., New York, NY

12469 **

12589

13467

13579 Julian Hawthorne Co., New York NY

14678 **

14689

14789

23456

23579

24568 ** Austin Nichols Co., NewYork NY

24678 **

24679

Schermack #6

25789	David Williams Co., New York NY.
34678	Edison Phonograph Distributors, F. K. Babson, Vice President, Chicago, Ill
45679	
45689	U. T. Hungerford Brass & Copper Co., NYC.
245679	
3456789	
23456789	

TWELVE HOLE OPEN SQUARE.
(No identifications reported.)

NONE

ADLL

AF

AFK

AGHL

BCEFGH

BEFJ

CFGHJ

CFGJ

CFK **

EXPERIMENTAL DIAMOND
(No identification reported).

NONE

May 31 1968

LIST OF SCHERWACK TYPE III COILS PERFORATED AS INDICATED.

If you have a stamp please circle the number.

If you have a cover please write in the identification and date used if readable.

MISSING holes are the ones listed.

NINE HOLE SOLID SQUARE.

0	0	0	1	2	3	0	0	
0	0	0	4	5	6	0	0	This is 2 4 9
0	0	0	7	8	9	0	0	

None	56
1	57
3	58
4	68
5	69
7	79
9	124
13	127
14	134
17	136
19	137
25	139
28	149
36	179
37	236
39	237
45	246
46	349
47	387
48	379
49	468

Schermack #2

473	13467
579	13579
678	14678
689	14689
1239	14789
1245	23456
1249	23579
1279	24568
1289	24678
1367	24679
1373	24789
1379	25789
1469	34678
1679	45679
2356	45689
2458	245679
2468	23456789

.....TWELVE HOLE OPEN SQUARE.....

4578	O O O O	A B C D
4589	O	E F
4678	O	G H
4679	O O O O	I J K L
5679	NONE	
5689	ADLL	
12358	AF	
12456	AFK	BEFJ
12469	AGHL	CFGHJ
12589	BCEFGH	CFGJ
		CFK

SCHERMAK CONTROL PERFORATION PATTERNS.
Not to scale.

0	1	3	4	5	7	9	13
14	17	19	25	28	36	37	39
45	46	47	48	49	56	57	58
68	69	79	124	127	134	136	137
139	149	179	236	237	246	258	349
367	378	379	468	478	579	678	689
1239	1245	1249	1279	1289		1378	1379
1469	1679	2356	2458	2468	3467	4578	4589
4678	4679	5679	5689	12358	12456	12469	12589

Schermack diagrams #2

1.3467	1.3579	1.4678	1.4689	1.4789	2.3456	2.3579	2.4568
2.4678	2.4679	2.4789	2.5789	3.4678	4.5679	4.5689	2.45679
2.3456789							

12-hole open square.

None	ADIL	AF	AFK	AGHL	BOEFGH
BEFJ	CFGHJ	CFGJ			

EXPERIMENTAL


